

REMARKS

Claims 12, 28, 29 and 42 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

These claims have been rewritten in independent form, and they have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 10, 13-14, 34-36, 41 and 43-45 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,403,335 B1.

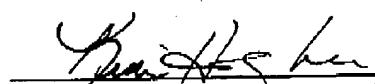
This rejection is rendered moot by Applicant's amendments to the claims. Specifically, these claims have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly H. Lu, Reg. #51,973
Thompson Coburn LLP
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Telephone: 314-552-6307
Fax: 314-552-7307